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# CZECHS ACT TO GAG PRESS

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## WESTERNERS TOLD: FOLLOW NEWS ETHICS

### May Face Trial, Official Says

[From Tribune Wire Services]

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, Nov. 8.—Western reporters in Czechoslovakia were warned today that they will risk criminal trial if they fail in the future to "observe the basic principles of journalistic ethics."

Jiri Hecko, political officer of the Czech army, wrote in the Communist party newspaper Rude Pravo he was convinced that the criminal code will be changed to permit such trials.

Hecko made the reference in a lengthy article on a West German national, identified as Juergen Grenz, 29, who was expelled from Czechoslovakia yesterday. Authorities charged he arrived with forged press cards, falsified official Czech documents and worked illegally as a part time correspondent for the Austrian radio.

#### Regards as Paradoxical

"I regard it as paradoxical that the 'journalistic activities' and the way in which Grenz carried them on in our country does not come under our legal and criminal jurisdiction . . . thus far," Hecko wrote.

"I am convinced that our legislative organs will do away with this shortcoming . . . so that those in the west could not . . . turn our country into a hunting ground for canards . . . without observing the basic principles of journalistic ethics."

#### Curbs Are Told

Meanwhile, Czech culture minister Miloslav Bruzek has announced measures to end the resistance of cultural unions to party policy, Rude Pravo reported today.

Bruzek, a conservative who took over the ministry from Miroslav Galuska, a liberal, in July, informed an invited group of artists of the crackdown plans yesterday.

The cultural unions, which represent writers, television, film and theater workers, sculptors, painters, and literary translators, have protested censorship and boycotted soviet films, plays, and music since the August, 1968, invasion of Czechoslovakia.

#### Measures Are Told

Bruzek, Rude Pravo said, outlined following measures:

The ministry will deal directly with artists, bypassing the unions. This step would make the unions into largely formal bodies without any real power to influence cultural policy.

Legal and economic measures will be instituted. He did not give details.

The union's authority to decide what contacts they will make with foreign countries will be taken away. By making these decisions itself, the ministry apparently plans to end the boycott of culture from the five communist countries which participated in the invasion.

#### Supervise Funds Use

The ministry will supervise closely the use of union funds. This step could deprive unions of their ability to support artists out of favor with the regime by granting them special commissions of figurehead positions.

There will be "sharp intervention" in publications. This could prevent on administrative, rather than censorship grounds, the publication of books critical of current party policy of those written by liberals.

"We cannot tolerate that we lack school books and dictionaries and at the same time have the book market full of shoddy products," Rude Pravo quoted Bruzek as saying.

The measures presumably will apply only to the Czech lands of Bohemia and Moravia, since Bruzek's ministerial authority does not extend to Slovakia.

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